

Senate Democratic Policy Committee Hearing

“Do Deficits Matter? The Impact of Long-Term Deficits on Economic Growth and Job Creation”

Witness Biographies

GENE SPERLING

Center for American Progress

Gene Sperling is Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and Senior Fellow for Economic Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations. In addition to working on economic analyses and budgetary, tax, Social Security, and globalization issues, he is the Director of the Center for Universal Education, which focuses on policies to promote universal basic education in the world's poorest countries.

Formerly, Mr. Sperling was National Economic Advisor to President Clinton and Director of the National Economic Council from 1997-2001. In President Clinton's first term, he served as Deputy National Economic Advisor.

As National Economic Advisor and White House chief economic advisor, Mr. Sperling coordinated President Clinton's efforts to institute debt reduction, strengthen Social Security, as well as globalization and trade issues. He was a principal negotiator for the 1997 Balanced Budget Agreement, a principal negotiator with Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers in finalizing the financial modernization bill and, together with United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, successfully concluded the historic China-WTO agreement in Beijing.

His publications have appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, *Financial Times*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Tax Notes*, *Worth Magazine*, *Atlantic Monthly*, and *The Los Angeles Times*. Mr. Sperling graduated from the University of Minnesota and received a J.D. from Yale Law School, where he was Senior Editor of the *Yale Law Journal*.

CHRIS EDWARDS

CATO Institute

Chris Edwards is the Director of Fiscal Policy Studies at the Cato Institute. He has over a decade of experience in tax and budget policy. Before joining Cato, Mr. Edwards was senior economist on the Joint Economic Committee, where he covered tax, Social Security, and entrepreneurship issues.

Prior to that, Mr. Edwards worked on revenue estimation, tax modeling, tax reform and international economic issues as a tax consultant and manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers. He

has also served as an economist with the Tax Foundation and examined federal, state and local tax and budget policies. Mr. Edwards holds a Master's degree in economics from George Mason University.

ROBERT GREENSTEIN
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Robert Greenstein is the founder and Executive Director of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, where he focuses on the federal budget and, more specifically, the impact of tax and budget proposals on middle- and lower-income people. Mr. Greenstein has written numerous reports, analyses, op-ed pieces, and magazine articles on budget-related issues. He appears on national television news and public affairs programs and is frequently asked to testify on Capitol Hill.

In 1996, Mr. Greenstein was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship. The MacArthur Foundation cited Mr. Greenstein for making “the Center a model for a non-partisan research and policy organization.” In 1994, he was appointed by President Clinton to serve on the Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform.

Prior to founding the Center, Mr. Greenstein was Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he directed the agency that operates the federal food assistance programs, with a staff of 2,500 and a budget of \$15 billion.

CHARLES KOLB
Committee For Economic Development

Charles Kolb is the President of the Committee for Economic Development (CED). Founded in 1942, CED is an independent, nonpartisan research and policy organization of 250 business and education leaders dedicated to economic and social policy research and the implementation of its recommendations by the public and private sectors.

Prior to joining CED, Mr. Kolb served as General Counsel and Secretary of United Way of America from 1992 to 1997. During nearly ten years of government service, Mr. Kolb held several senior-level positions. At the White House he served as Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy from 1990 to 1992 and handled several domestic issues involving economic, education, legal and regulatory matters. He also served as Assistant General Council at OMB, Deputy General Counsel for Regulation and Legislation at the Education Department, and Deputy Under Secretary for Planning, Budget and Evaluation at the Education Department.

Mr. Kolb received his undergraduate degree at Princeton University and did graduate study at Oxford University, from which he received a Master's Degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. He holds a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law where he was Editor-in-Chief of the *Virginia Journal of International Law*. He is also the author of a book on

White House policymaking and more than 20 law review and op-ed articles.

Mr. Kolb has regularly appeared in the media, including the *Today Show*, *ABC News with Peter Jennings*, *The CBS Evening News*, MSNBC's *Hardball*, *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*, *CNNfn*, *CNN's Inside Politics*, and National Public Radio.